CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the FAO's World Food Report (1986) which projects a dismal picture for developing countries in the matter of real export earnings from agricultural commodities;

(b) what is the projected food surplus of India during 1987-88; and

(c) the manner in which it is proposed to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir, the Report has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) As the demand for foodgrains in the country depends on various factors, such as population growth, extent of urbanisation, levels of income, prices of substitutable foodgrains, level of production etc., precise estimates of requirement of foodgrains in the country are not available.

(c) There is considerable scope for increasing internal consumption of foodgrains in the country and as such the available stocks are proposed to be utilized mainly for meeting this requirement.

Nodal agencies for implementation of supply of goods and services

2676. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Consumer Protection Act has commenced showing results as envisaged in the Act;

(b) whether his Ministry is likely to serve as a nodal administrative agency for implementation of all safeguards for supply of goods and services at the earliest;

(c) whether one nodal authority is likely to be named in every State Capital and in each District for dealing with every Consumers' complaint and for its statutory redressal within one month; and

(d) whether voluntary Consumer federations are likely to be inducted into this job?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) The Consumer Protection Act was passed in the last Winter Session of the Parliament. Steps are being taken to ensure that the institutions envisaged in the Act become functional as early as possible.

(b) In view of the diverse nature of goods and services, it would not be possible for the Department of Civil Supplies to implement all the safeguards in this regard. It is, however, functioning as a nodal Department for coordination of work relating to consumer protection.

(c) In the Consumer Protection Act a redressal machinery at the National, State and District level has been provided for speedy and inexpensive redressal of consumer complaints.

(d) Voluntary consumer organisations, alongwith other concerned sections of the society would be represented on the Consumer Protection Councils at the National and State levels, proposed to be set up under the Consumer Protection Act.